

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04336 161110Z

51

ACTION NEA-07

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R 160846Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1588

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4336

LIMDIS

CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SA

SUBJ: CURTAINS FOR PRINCE FAISAL BIN MUSA'ID BIN ABD

AL-AZIZ

1. THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS FINALLY DECIDED THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF PRINCE FAISAL BIN MUSA'ID, THE MURDERER OF KING FAISAL, HAS PRODUCED ALL IT WILL PRODUCE.

2. PRINCE SULTAN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND AHMED ZAKI YAMANI, MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, SAW THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DCM LATE JUNE 15 IMMEDIATELY AFTER A STORMY MEETING OF
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 04336 161110Z

THE SUPREME COUNCIL (SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY

PLUS YAMANI) IN WHICH ALL AGREED THE MATTER SHOULD BE ENDED. THEY AGREED THE YOUNG PRINCE SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO A COURT FOR TRIAL BUT THEY DIFFERED ON MECHANICS. KING KHALID, SUPPORTED BY PRINCE FAHD, AGREED THAT A SPECIAL COURT OF THREE RESPECTED JUDGES SHOULD BE SET UP FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRYING THE REGICIDE. PRINCE ABDULLAH (HEAD OF THE NATIONAL GUARD) AND PRINCE MUSA'ID (MINISTER OF FINANCE) ARGUED THAT HE SHOULD BE SENT TO A REGULAR COURT AND TREATED AS A COMMON CRIMINAL.

3. THE DISPUTE SEEMED MINOR BUT THE SUBJECT WAS IMPORTANT AND THE DISAGREEMENT BECAME RANCOROUS. FAHD AND ABDULLAH SHOUTED AT EACH OTHER; FAHD WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED THAT THE QUARREL HAD BROKEN OUT (AND WAS PROBABLY ANGRY WITH HIMSELF THAT HE HAD LOST HIS USUAL EQUANIMITY). HE WENT IMMEDIATELY FROM THE MEETING TO A MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN, THE AMBASSADOR, THE DCM AND USMTM CHIEF, GEN. AHMANN, AND ANGER DOMINATED HIS REMARKS (SEE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM).

4. YAMANI AND SULTAN THOUGHT THAT THE MURDERER WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO A SPECIAL COURT TODAY (JUNE 16)) AND EXECUTED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE LAW PRESCRIBES DEATH FOR MURDER UNLESS ALL THE KING'S SONS ASK FOR CLEMENCY. AT LEAST ONE WILL NOT.

5. YAMANI AND SULTAN ALSO SAID THAT THE EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAD SHOWN NO RPT NO ACCOMPLICES, NO FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT, NO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE. THE PRINCE WAS SANE BUT EMOTIONALLY UNBALANCED AND ACTED ON HIS OWN. YAMANI SAID THE PRINCE HAD SAID HE HAD KILLED THE KING TO "SAVE SAUDI ARABIA" AND THAT HE HAD CONFESSED PLANNING TO KILL PRINCE SALMAN (GOVERNOR OF RIYADH), SEVERAL OTHER PRINCES AND YAMANI. YAMANI SAID HE WAS THE ONLY ONE ON THE LIST WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE ASSASSINATION, SO HE WAS PLEASED TO BE ALIVE TODAY.

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